

1 Chronicles 11:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said, My God forbid it me, that I should do this thing: shall I drink the blood of these men that have put their lives in jeopardy? for with the jeopardy of their lives they brought it. Therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mightiest.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on David established as king and mighty men. The Hebrew term בְּרִית (berit) - covenant is theologically significant here, pointing to God's sovereign choice of leadership. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about God's sovereign choice of leadership. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: David as type of Christ, the Messianic King.

Historical Context

Historical Background: This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of David established as king and mighty men occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on God's sovereign choice of leadership challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does David as type of Christ, the Messianic King teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	מְאֹלֶה	לִ	סְלִילָה	זֶה	אֶת	פֶּדֶךְ
And said	forbid	H0	My God	it These things did	this thing	the blood
H559	H2486		H430	H6213	H2063	H1818
of these men	לֹשְׁתּוֹתָם	בְּאָנָשִׁים	לֹשְׁתּוֹתָם	בְּנִפְשׁוֹתָם	בְּנִפְשׁוֹתָם	כִּ
H582	H428	H8354	not drink	for with the jeopardy of their lives	H5315	H3588
for with the jeopardy of their lives	בְּנִפְשׁוֹתָם	וְלֹא	בְּנִפְשׁוֹתָם	אַבָּה	it Therefore he would	
H5315		H935	H3808	H14		
not drink	לֹשְׁתּוֹתָם	אָלָה	עַשׂ	שְׁלַשָּׁת	הַגְּבוּרִים:	
H8354	H428		H6213	H7969	these three	mightiest
					H1368	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 72:14 (Blood): He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

2 Samuel 23:17 (Blood): And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.